

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7 and 10-22 are pending in the present application. Claim 21 is withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5, 7 and 10-20 and 22 are rejected. Claims 1, 20 and 22 are herein amended. No new matter has been presented.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The present claims are rejected under §112 second paragraph because the term “PC-6” is unclear.

In response, claims 1, 20 and 22 are herein amended to remove the term “PC-6”.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7, 10-20 and 22 are rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanda et al. (EP 1152036) in view of Sezi et al. (US 5,173,393) and Niki et al. (US 5,326,675).

Applicant herein amends the claims to clarify the invention. Thereafter, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection because the cited references fail to teach or reasonably suggest the claimed invention, alone or in combination.

Applicant specifically notes that the closed transitional phrase “consisting of” referring to the claimed surfactant composition precludes other constituents of the surfactant composition other than the claimed first surfactant and the solvent .

Applicant notes that the surfactant solution of claim 1 has only two components, that is, the first surfactant and the solvent.

On the other hand, the reactant of Sezi includes an amino-group containing reactant, and the acidic coating layer of Niki includes a polymer. By limiting the components included in the surfactant solution of the first surfactant and the solvent, Applicant submits that the surfactant solution of claim 1 cannot be obtained from the cited references, alone or in combination.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

/Kenneth H. Salen/

Kenneth H. Salen
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,077
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

KHS/nrp